

**Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health  
BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES  
Wednesday, December 1, 2021**

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The Board of Health of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health met at the **GUELPH** office and virtually via Zoom platform at 2:00 p.m.

**Members in attendance were:** Mr. George Bridge (Chair), Mr. Allan Alls, Ms. Christine Billings, Mr. Guy Gardhouse, Mr. Rodrigo Goller (via teleconference), Ms. June Hofland, Mr. Ralph Manktelow and Mr. Chris White.

**Member(s) with regrets:** None

**Ex-officio member(s) in attendance:** Dr. Mercer, Medical Officer of Health & CEO

**Staff members in attendance were:** Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum (AMOH), Mr. Chris Beveridge, Ms. Rita Isley, Mr. David Kingma, Mr. Kyle Wilson, Mr. Rob Cunnington, Ms. Mary Anne Kozdras, Ms. Karen Mulvey, Ms. Laura Kelly (Recording Secretary), Ms. Shelley Nuhn, Ms. Maryanne Kozdras, Ms. April Pollington, Mr. Emerson Rajaram, Mr. Chuck Ferguson, Ms. Anna Vanderlaan, Mr. Patryk Wardach, Ms. Rosalyn LaRochelle, Ms. Karen McRae and Ms. Kelly Briscoe.

**Guests in attendance were:** (MEDIA), Ms. Joanne Shuttleworth (Wellington Advertiser), Austin Cardinell (The Grand 101), Matt Cardy (CJOY), Joshua Santos (Metroland), and member(s) of the public.

**1.0 Call to Order**

G. Bridge, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:16 p.m.

**2.0 Disclosure(s) of Pecuniary Interest**

**3.0** There are no disclosures of pecuniary interest declared at this time.

**4.0 Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION: “To approve the Minutes of November 3, 2021, as presented.”**

<b>Moved:</b>	<b>J. Hofland</b>	
<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>R. Manktelow</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>

**5.0 MOH Update(s)**

Dr. Mercer provided the following update:

- Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) faces a new challenge with the distribution of vaccines to the 5-11 age group.

- With an eligible population of >23,500, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health's (WDGPH) ultimate goal is to reach a 90% vaccination rate with an immediate goal of 70%.
- At the time of this meeting, 29% of the eligible population of 5-11-year-olds in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) are vaccinated or have booked their appointment.
- The Agency has ensured that the vaccine is easily accessible to WDG residents, by making it available at primary care offices, public health facilities and pharmacies.
- WDGPH also continues to run hub, mobile and pop-up clinics as well as conducting visits to high-risk congregate settings.
- A Board member requests clarification on whether vaccination will be mandatory for the 5-11 age group to enter some public spaces.
- WDGPH will await provincial direction. There are no immediate plans to make the vaccine mandatory.
- A Board member requests clarification about WDGPH staff capacity to deliver booster doses in conjunction with 5-11 first doses.
- Family Health Teams and pharmacies are providing the heavy lift and WDGPH will continue to support their efforts. As more age groups become eligible, capacity will become challenging, however the Agency has built in the capacity for children to access vaccinations before Christmas.

## 6.0 Presentation(s)

COVID-19: What to Expect for the Future
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Dr. Tenenbaum presented and provides summary as follows:

- Characteristics of the pandemic are ever evolving and have changed with each wave with age, high-risk congregate settings, vaccine availability and immunization rates all contributing to this.
- The success of vaccines within the elderly population is evident as the epidemiology of the pandemic has changed over time. Where most residents falling ill in the first wave were older adults, the current wave is seeing much less of this.
- This is a testament to the approach that was taken provincially, nationally, and regionally to prioritize the vaccination of high-risk populations.
- With the emergence of the Omicron variant, the ability to achieve herd immunity and critical vaccination thresholds are important factors as waning immunity becomes of greater concern for the community.
- Waning immunity may impact the further relaxation of public health measures in the province. The current public health measures and higher vaccination rates are important drivers as we exit from the pandemic.
- A board member requests clarification about when booster shots will be available for younger age groups.
- NACI and Health Canada are expected to make an announcement this week that will define when boosters will be available to the 50+ age group.

## 7.0 Business Arising

- Board members discuss the date of the 2022 inaugural meeting.
- Decision is made for February 2, 2022.

**MOTION: “That the Board of Health hold its inaugural meeting on February 2, 2022.”**

**Moved: R. Goller**  
**Seconded: J. Hofland**

**CARRIED**

## **8.0 BOH Report(s)**

### **BH.01.DEC0121.R14 – COVID-19 Clinic Planning “Year in Review”**

K. Wilson introduced, and reviewed BOH Report BH.01.DEC0121.R14, as follows:

- A high-level overview of the report is shared illuminating the 3 phases of clinic planning during the pandemic.
- These include setting the foundation, showcasing adaptability, and displaying the ongoing persistence of WDGPH.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> phase of clinic planning began last week with the commencement of vaccination distribution to 5-11-year-olds.
- WDGPH’s partnerships were vital to the successful rollout of these vaccines.
- WDGPH has quickly adapted to changes from the Province throughout the pandemic using specific data systems for pre-registration, power BI’s as well as online booking.
- The Board acknowledges the success of the past year and offers congratulations to WDGPH staff.

**MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.DEC0121.R14 – 2021 COVID-19 Clinic Planning ‘Year in Review’, as presented, for information.”**

**Moved: J. Hofland**  
**Seconded: R. Goller**

**CARRIED**

### **BH.01.DEC0121.R15 HBHC Program Restart**

N. Mercer introduced, and M. Kozdras reviewed BOH Report BH.01.DEC0121.R15, as follows:

- The program restarted in August of 2021.
- There have been staffing and resource challenges due to the backlog from the pandemic, largely due to not having the full compliment of staff available as they are assisting with clinics and the call centre.
- Scheduled visits are currently being held by telephone. This may change to home visits in 2022 as the pandemic progresses.
- A Board member requests clarification about the accuracy of the program forecast and if the program will be running at full capacity in 2022.
- The Ministry of Community and Social Services are reforecasting what the program will look like in 2022 and WDGPH will provide updates accordingly.
- Board members acknowledge the value of this program to the community and congratulate WDGPH staff for their flexibility and dedication.

**MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.DEC0121.R15 – HBHC Program Restart, as presented, for information.”**

**Moved: J. Hofland**  
**Seconded: R. Goller**

**CARRIED**

## **9.0 Committee (Verbal) Report(s)**

Executive Committee Report:

- None

Human Resources Committee Report:

- None

Finance + Audit Committee Report:

- None

Facilities Committee Report:

- None

## **10.0 Correspondence**

- NONE

Media and Public attendees were asked to disconnect from the meeting, at this time, as this Board of Health meeting contains a “Closed Session” section which falls under the exemptions pursuant to Section 239 of the *Municipal Act*. Please note that this session is **not** open to members of the public or the press.

(3:51) The Open Session portion of the meeting ended, and everyone disconnected from the meeting.

## **11.0 CLOSED SESSION**

- To approve the Closed Session Board of Health Minutes of November 3, 2021
- Verbal Report – NONE
- MOH Updates – [personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees].

**MOTION: “To move into Closed Session to approve Closed Session BOH Minutes of November 3, 2021; and to obtain MOH Updates [personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees].”**

**Moved: A. Alls**  
**Seconded: J. Hofland**

**CARRIED**

**Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health**  
**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Wednesday, December 1, 2021**

**CLOSED SESSION**

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**Member(s) with regrets were:** None

**Ex-officio member(s) in attendance were:** Dr. Mercer, Medical Officer of Health & CEO.

**Staff member(s) in attendance were:** Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Mr. Chris Beveridge, Ms. Rita Isley, Mr. David Kingma, Mr. Kyle Wilson, and Ms. Laura Kelly (Recording Secretary).

**Guest(s) in attendance were:** NONE.

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**CLOSED SESSION MINUTES TO BE PROVIDED UNDER SEPARATE COVER.**

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(4:24) **Returned to Open Session.**

**MOTION: “To Ratify the Closed Session Decisions of the November 3, 2021 Board of Health meeting.”**

**Moved: G. Gardhouse**  
**Seconded: C. Billings** **CARRIED**

**Motion(s) passed and brought forward from the November 3, 2021 Closed Session Meeting:**

**MOTION: “To approve the Closed Session Minutes of November 3, 2021, as presented.”**

**Moved: C. Billings**  
**Seconded: G. Gardhouse** **CARRIED**

## **12.0 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

**MOTION: “To adjourn the meeting.”**

**Moved: C. Billings**  
**Seconded: G. Gardhouse** **CARRIED**